

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----011494 021917Z /40

P R 021822Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2731
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 01859

EXDIS

FOR DEP/UTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCNEIL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, CI, UK
SUBJECT: PROPOSED CHILEAN RADICAL PARTY VISIT

REF: BINNS/MCNEIL OFFICIAL-INFORMALS OF 10/19 AND 12/5/

1. RADICAL PARTY EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE CARLOS
PARRA ADVISED THE EMBASSY THAT HE AND PARTY CHAIRMAN
ANSELMO SULE, WHO WE UNDERSTAND IS RESIDENT IN MEXICO,
WISH TO VISIT WASHINGTON THE WEEK BEGINNING APRIL 9.
THEY PLAN TO SPEND ABOUT FOUR DAYS IN WASHINGTON,
FOLLOWED BY ONE OR TWO DAYS IN NEW YORK. THE PURPOSE
OF THEIR VISIT WILL BE TO "DISCUSS CURRENT AND FUTURE
DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILE AND EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH U.S.
OFFICIALS AND OTHERS".

2. PARRA HOPES THAT THEY WILL BE RECEIVED BY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY TODMAN, YOU AND OTHER SENIOR DEPARTMENT
OFFICIALS INTERESTED IN CHILE. WHILE THEY WILL BE
SEEKING APPOINTMENTS OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH
ALREADY ESTABLISHED CONTACTS (OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT
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THESE ARE MINIMAL), THEY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S
ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS WITH: SENATORS
AND CONGRESSMEN (PARRA OFFERED THE FOLLOWING SUGGES-
TIONS -- SENATORS CHURCH, MCGOVERN, SARBANES, JAVITS,
PERCY AND JACKSON; CONGRESSMEN FASCELL, FRASER,
ROSENTHAL, HARRINGTON, YATRON, GILMAN AND LAGOMARSINO);
AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, AIFLD, UAW AND

MACHINISTS UNION; AND ACADEMIC AND OTHER PRIVATE GROUPS
HAVING INTERESTS IN CHILE . THEY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO
MEET WITH WORLD BANK AND IADB, IF POSSIBLE, BUT
RECOGNIZE THAT OFFICIAL CHILEAN REPRESENTATION IN THESE
INSTITUTIONS MIGHT MAKE THIS DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE.
PARRA ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO
MEET WITH U.S. BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON
OR NEW YORK.

3. COMMENT: PARRA, AS INDICATED IN REFERENCES, IS
THE RADICAL PARTY'S PRINCIPAL CONTACT WITH THE SOCIALIST
INTERNATIONAL (SI) AND REGULARLY ATTENDS SI BUREAU
MEETINGS. YOUNG, INTELLIGENT AND APPARENTLY ABLE, HE
IS INEXPERIENCED IN BOTH DOMESTIC (CHILEAN) AND INTER-
NATIONAL POLITICS. HIS SI ROLE, HOWEVER, HAS BROUGHT
HIM INTO REGULAR CONTACT WITH LEADING EUROPEAN SOCIAL
DEMOCRATS (E.G. WILLY BRANDT, OLOF PALME, MARIO SOARES)
INTERESTED IN CHILE, AND HE HAS CLEARLY BEEN INFLUENCED
BY THEIR ATTITUDES AND THINKING. NOT SURPRISINGLY, HE IS
VERY UNCERTAIN AND TENTATIVE ABOUT APPROACHING THE
DEPARTMENT AND U.S. POLITICAL LEADERS, BUT SEEMS
GENERALLY WELL-DISPOSED AND HOPEFUL OF CREATING A
MODERATE AND RESPONSIBLE IMPRESSION. HE DESCRIBES HIS
OWN POSITION AS "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST" OR OCCASIONALLY,
"SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC". THIS DISTINCTION IS IMPORTANT IN

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----011541 021920Z /42

P R 021822Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2732
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 01859

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THE UK CONTEXT, WHERE PARRA HAS LIVED FOR EIGHT YEARS, WITH THE FORMER SUGGESTING A MORE LEFT-WING POSITION AND HAVING MARXIST CONNOTATIONS, ALBEIT DEMOCRATIC. HE CONVINCINGLY ARGUES THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILE HAVE DRIVEN MOST POLITICAL PARTIES TOWARD THE CENTER OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM AND PROFESSES TO HOPE FOR AN ACCOMMODATION OR UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE RADICALS AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PERHAPS UNDERSTANDABLE GIVEN THEIR RELATIVE STRENGTHS). WHILE WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO JUDGE THE CURRENT OR PROSPECTIVE SITUATION IN CHILE NOR THE ROLE THE RADICALS MIGHT PLAY IN THE FUTURE, WE URGE THAT YOU BE AS RECEPTIVE AND RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO THIS OVERTURE, IF ONLY BECUASE OF THE RADICAL PARTY'S CONNECTIONS WITH THE SI. THE SI AND ITS AFFILIATED PARTIES ARE PROFOUNDLY INTERESTED IN (THOUGH NOT ALWAYS WELL INFORMED ON) CHILE, AND REPORTS OF THE RESULTS OF THE RADICAL VISIT WILL CIRCULATE QUICKLY AMONG THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, INFLUENCING THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF USG POLICY.

4. WE UNDERSTAND FROM PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN'S POLITICAL ADVISOR THAT HM'S EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RAISE THIS PROPOSED VISIT WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPARTMENT, EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT SULE AND PARRA WILL BE RECEIVED AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL. CALLAGHAN AND LABOR PARTY BELIEVE THAT FAILURE OF U.S. AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO ENCOURAGE THE RADICAL PARTY WILL TEND TO DRIVE IT LEFTWARD AND INTO THE ARMS OF THE CHILEAN COMMUNIST PARTY.

5. FOR SANTIAGO: YOU MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON THE ABOVE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON01859
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780050-0533
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802101/aaaadhsz.tel
Line Count: 160
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 25d1cdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3431534
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED CHILEAN RADICAL PARTY VISIT
TAGS: PEPR, CI, UK, (PARRA, CARLOS), (SULE, ANSELMO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/25d1cdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014